

# CHARACTERS IN DYSTOPIAN TEXTS

## THE DYSTOPIAN PROTAGONIST

A dystopian protagonist might have one or more of the following characteristics:

Recognises that something is terribly wrong with the society in which he or she lives.



Acts as a leader who motivates a group of citizens to rebel against the government.



Is often a social outcast or lower-class citizen who is disadvantaged by the system or unable to conform.



Has a primary goal to escape society or destroy it, or its principals, completely.



Usually feels trapped or restricted by the rules and regulations.



Shows courage by putting themselves in danger, often risking their life to achieve their goal.



Starts to question the social and political systems in place then often tries to change them.



Sometimes fail in their intention they themselves end up changing to conform to society's rules.



## DYSTOPIAN CITIZENS

In dystopian societies, citizens may experience any of the following:

- feel as if they are under constant surveillance
- have a fear of the outside world
- live in a dehumanized state
- conform to uniform expectations
- are strictly divided based on intellect, ability or class
- live in constant paranoia and fear
- feel powerless in the face of the oppressive leader/s

